

The Breeze



May 2024

Newsletter 23-24 #4

Wooster, Ohio Branch

Inform...Invite...Recruit...Retain

From the President's Desk



Good News! I am pleased to announce that the Wayne County Community Foundation has agreed to fully fund our grant request. As you may recall, AAUW and Kiwanis submitted a grant proposal to pay for the double doors that need to be installed at the new book storage and processing facility located behind Zion Lutheran Church. We are thrilled that they have agreed to fund our request of \$15,763.00. We will be scheduling the work with Bogner Construction soon. We are so fortunate to have an entity like the

Community Foundation in our city. Now we can continue to focus on our mission of providing scholarships to women in Wayne County without using some of the proceeds of the sale to fund the doors. We will also be able to continue providing great books at affordable prices to residents of Wayne County and the surrounding areas. Continue to spread the word that books may be donated every Saturday morning between 10 and 12.

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon at Wooster Country Club. What a wonderful event! Thanks once again to Carole Erdos, Donna Connolly, Anne Strauss and Maggie Spriggs for all your hard work. Our speaker, Susan Heady, had an interesting talk about the history of herbs and herb gardening in Wooster. It was great to see so many of you there.

As Sarah Miles and I mentioned at the annual meeting, we are looking into a service that would enable us to process credit cards from members. While we would still accept checks, it might be a good idea to take credit cards for annual dues and our two luncheons. This would be especially helpful to the younger generation that doesn't use checks. On the negative side, we would have to pay a monthly fee of \$10.50 as well as a 3% processing fee. The Board would appreciate your feedback. Are you comfortable using your credit card online? It's a secure site and no information would be stored by us or by the processing site. Send any thoughts or concerns to me at armstrongkaren93@gmail.com. Thanks in advance!

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to those members of the Board and committees who are retiring from their positions. Susie Slack has been on the board since I've been a member of AAUW and was most recently co-chair of the Book Sale committee and Exploring Stem Day. Jan Steinbrenner and Roni Mellon were our Literary co-chairs, Barb Friedhoff was on the Scholarship committee and Judy Kastelan was our Sunshine chair. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mimi Lewellen, Nancy Grace, Don Ackerman and Joyce Burdno who will be joining the Board this year. I look forward to working with you! Finally, this is your gentle reminder to send in your membership dues if you haven't already.

Thanks everyone for a great year, I look forward to serving as your President once again.

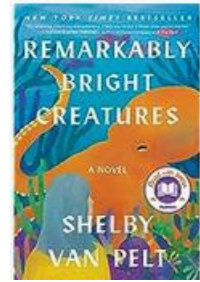
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Armstrong
armstrongkaren93@gmail.com

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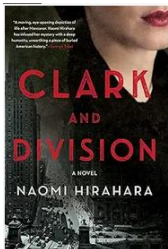
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Literary

We've read a wide variety of books this past year, beginning with learning about the relationship between a worker in an aquarium and a curmudgeonly giant Pacific octopus in **Remarkably Bright Creatures**. Other creatures, the golden beetles of New Caledonia, provided the reason for reading **Miss Benson's Beetles**.



We ended 2023 by reading **Reviving Ophelia: saving the selves of adolescent girls**. An alternative tack was taken for discussion of this book. The different time periods that adolescent girls experienced were shared. Questions that had been submitted by members were shared and discussed with a Senior Attending Physician in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rainbows and Childrens Hospital, Cleveland. Our guest elaborated on the problems young girls face today with the advent of social media and cell phones.



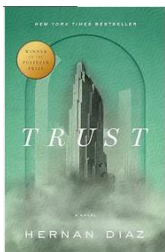
The January and February meetings were both conducted via Zoom. **Clark and Division** and **The Alice Network** both deal with women in different war eras. **Clark and Division** takes place in 1944, when 24-year-old Aki Ito and her parents are forced to move from California to Chicago with other Japanese-American detainees. Aki is determined to find out the circumstances surrounding her sister's death, who moved to Chicago shortly before the arrival of Aki and her family. **The Alice Network** is set in two story lines. A female spy is recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World I, and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

From Chicken to Eagle: Seven Women Paddling Whitewater and Navigating Life is a collection of short memoirs of women who took a wilderness adventure in 1979 when women were testing their mettle in society and in the wilderness. They accomplished things that were beyond their imaginations and comfort levels, allowing them to find meaning, purpose, challenge and enjoyment in their personal and professional lives.



Lessons in Chemistry, set in the 1960s, follows the life of a woman who is not your average woman. After working unsuccessfully with an all-male team at a research institute, life's unpredictability finds her as a single mother who becomes a beloved cooking show star, who has an unusual approach to cooking. A very important character in the book was a dog named Six-Thirty, a central part in Elizabeth's and Calvin's love story.

Book selection for 2024-25 will take place at our next meeting on **May 21 at 6:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church**. We will be voting on books for 2024-2025 following our annual dinner.



The June meeting will be on June 21, 7:00, at the home of Mimi Lewellen. Don Ackerman will lead the discussion of **Trust**, by Hernan Diaz.

At the end of June, Roni and I are handing the Literary Co-chair reins over to Donna Connolly and Don Ackerman. We wish them well and know they will do a wonderful job. We'd also like to take this opportunity to give a huge thanks to Anita Greene, who each year helped us tremendously by putting together the synopses of books offered for selection.

Submitted by Jan Steinbrenner and Roni Mellon

AAUW/KIWANIS BOOKSALE

As you have all heard by now, our processing location has been moved to the red building behind Zion Lutheran Church; we're very happy to have a new home! And we're thrilled to announce that the Wayne County Community Foundation has approved the entire amount of a request submitted by the AAUW/Kiwanis Book Sale for large doors to be installed in the building!! They are necessary in order to allow a forklift to access the pallets of books that will be transported from the processing center to the Fairgrounds for the sale.

Book processing is coming along nicely at the new location. Cleaners, sorters and pricers are all busy trying to catch up with the books brought from the old location as well as the books received each Saturday.

A big welcome to Anne White Strauss and Sue Herman who will be the new AAUW chairs of the book sale! They will be working with Kris Evans, the current chair, to help with this year's sale and take over after that. A huge THANK YOU to them both!

Although the space at the new location is smaller than before there is still room for more cleaners and sorters. Our hours are as follow:

Tuesdays: 1:15 - 3:15

Wednesdays: 5:30 – 7:30

Saturdays: 10:00 – noon

Please come help if you can – no experience necessary!

Submitted by Kris Evans

Newsletter Update

Thank you all for your feedback and good wishes in support of the newsletter. I will continue as the Editor and welcome one of our new members, Nancy Grace, as our Co-Editor.

We would love to have your input as to what you would like to see included in the newsletter next year. Please contact me patsymat@aol.com or Nancy <mailto:nmgrace13152@gmail.com>.

Submitted by Pat Mathews

Member Tidbit

Having joined AAUW in 1980 I was still feeling my way, working in a small regional bank paying a mortgage (feeling lucky to get it at 8.5 %) when in 1982 I was asked to go to New York for a pre-event for the next International Women's Conference. Just had to pay my way there and back.

The Queen of Egypt spoke on the status of women in her country (I think she had been born in Minnesota). The Prime Minister's wife from Turkey also was a key note speaker amongst other world players.

I signed up for the finance tour, encouraged by a woman who said it was a very special tour. That was accurate. We went first to The Fed. Down 11 or so floors to the gold vault, 32 # bars moved from one wooden cage to another by number so no one could identify the transaction. I think that was also the first time my purse was searched before entering a building.

We went to Gramercy Park to a female stock broker's apartment and she told us how difficult it had been and how many hours she put into her job. Nice apt and she had a key to the park.

Late afternoon we finished on Wall Street and were in the back row (but there!) for closing bell.

This gift from my fellow AAUW members changed and expanded my life and I will never forget the members thoughtful kindness.

This member tidbit is from AAUW life member Anne White Strauss

Submitted by Anne White Strauss

Membership News

Wooster AAUW membership for June 2023 was 64.

As of May 6, 2024 our Treasurer has 27 members listed: six Life members, three new members and 16 renewals.

Membership renewal form is on our Wooster AAUW website, under the Membership tag and also at the end of this newsletter. If you need a hard copy delivered, contact Anita Greene.

Please have the form and payment submitted by May 31. Our Treasurer needs to complete tasks for National in early June.

Submitted by Anita Greene

Words of Wisdom

*Attitude is a little thing
that makes a BIG
difference*

*Energy flows where
attention goes*

*How we spend our days
is how we spend our lives*

Choose happiness

*Submitted by Pat Mathews
From my refrigerator magnets*

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Scholarship Committee

As you probably remember, in the fall we revised the eligibility criteria for our scholarships. Previously, our scholarships were only available to students pursuing an associate or a bachelor degree. We expanded the eligibility to include consideration of graduate degrees or specialized certification/licensure needed for employment. Priority, however, continues to be those applicants who are enrolled in associate or bachelor degree programs.

This year we also changed our application deadline to March 15 in order to comply with the plans the Foundation had to streamline the application process and expand our pool of applicants. Although we were hesitant at first, it appears that the results were beneficial.

This year we had 16 applicants who met the expanded criteria for consideration. Of those there were six equally outstanding applicants and we made award recommendations based on financial need. The Board will be reviewing our recommendations at the next meeting.

Thank you to Susan Roberts for helping evaluate the applicants this year. Thank you to Barb Friedhoff for serving an extra year and our co-chair this year. Sue Herman will be our chairperson next year.

Submitted by Pat Mathews

Report from the Treasurer

For those of you not able to attend our Spring Luncheon/Annual Meeting here are the two big items in the Treasurer's realm that have happened

We opened up three CDs in February 2024 at Commercial & Savings Bank. We started in \$5000 in each and have staggered maturity dates as follows:

- 7 months earning 4.94%
- 11 months earning 4.84%
- 25 months earning 4.31%

To date we have made \$174.39 in interest across all three.

We are also exploring adding online payments as an option. We would be using the same company that we rent our credit card machines from. The downside to online credit card payments is that there is a transaction fee charged by the credit card companies and a nominal fee for the program each month. Please see President Karen Armstrong's article for more information. We look forward to hearing your feedback on this.

Submitted by Sarah Miles

Stem Saturday

There was a full cohort at the annual STEM Saturday this year. Girls from Wayne County and surrounding counties met on the College of Wooster campus to engage in a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities facilitated by local experts in the field.



AAUW involvement was mainly in the area of reaching out to each school in the Tri-county area to secure numbers and facilitate delivery of materials to said schools. While our involvement may seem minimal, it was productive. We look forward to our continued partnership with this worthy team.

We received an email (complete with photos) from Karen Skubik thanking us for our continued support. She reported that they had lots of positive feedback and will be reviewing the surveys to consider the girls' suggestions to continue the success of the program next year.



Submitted by Sue Herman

Program News

Our 2023-24 AAUW Wooster programs have been successfully completed and enjoyed by many Members.

- February brought the Personal Expression program with presenter Wooster artist Susan Shie. This program was very well attended and interesting as Susan gave us a glimpse into her past and present works of art.



“Knowledge is imagination and creativity.”

- The March program with Wooster College professor Meredith Hope was a peak into the research she has done relating to the positive effects relating to youth and emerging adults and their relationships/connections to spiritual realms to become confident and productive adults.

“You are not alone.”

- April was a time to come together for the annual Business Meeting and Spring Luncheon which was held at the Wooster Country Club. Attendees seemed to enjoy themselves sharing lunch, and meeting two of our scholarship recipients from last year.



Susan Heady, herb gardener and master gardener volunteer from Wooster, taught us about Making an Herb Garden in Wooster.

**“From the corner of a garden,
herbs can offer aromas that bring smiles.”**

As we look forward to AAUW programs beginning next Autumn, we would more than welcome your input relating to program topics that would be of interest to you. Please send your thoughts and ideas to clerdos@aol.com.

Program committee members: Carole Erdos, Donna Connelly, Anne Strauss
Submitted by Carole Erdos

Upcoming Events

May 21

Literary Annual Dinner
2024-25 Book Selection

May 23

Board Meeting
6pm
Beuhler's
Community Rm

June 21

Literary
7pm at home of
Mimi Lewellen
Don Ackerman will
Review *Trust*
by Herman Diaz

*Newsletter Editor
Pat Mathews
patsymat@aol.com*

AAUW WOOSTER BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Membership Dues are \$93.00 (\$72 National, \$11 State, and \$10 Wooster) NOTE: \$64 of National dues are tax deductible
Student affiliate dues are \$18.81 (National only, with \$16 tax deductible)

Please make checks payable to: Mail completed form with your check to AAUW Wooster Branch Sarah Miles, Treasurer

AAUW Wooster Branch
P. O. Box 1191, Wooster, OH 44691

Please complete ALL of the information below so that we may better serve you!

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: (please print clearly) _____

Circle NO Change if College and Degrees are the same

College(s) / University(is) _____

Degree(s) and Majors(s) _____

Please check below ALL activities in which you would like to participate:

- Literary:** Book review discussion group that meets monthly all year
- Bookmarkers:** Volunteers clean, price and sort books at our facility
- "Exploring STEM Day":** In person STEM workshop, at the COW, is offered to girls in grades 5-7.
Contact: Karen Armstrong for volunteer information.

X **AAUW /KIWANIS USED BOOK SALE:** Wooster Branch's priority project is our scholarship program for Wayne County Women which is supported from the proceeds of this sale usually held the last week of September at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Member participation is necessary for the success of this event. Please consider a donation to AAUW Scholarship Fund at the Wayne County Community Foundation if you are unable to work at the Book Sale,

*Please feel free to use the back of this form to add any information or comments, especially indicating any programs you would like to see added in the 2024-2025 year. **New members are asked to include personal data for our newsletter on the back of this form.***